

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-20 SSO-00 ISO-00 ACDA-19

SCI-06 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 USIE-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 AEC-11 /137 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

S E C R E T STATE 145980

TOSEC 361

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2 LAST LINE OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, IN, US, UK

SUBJECT: INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST -- UK REACTION

1. BRIT MINISTER GRAHAM CALLED ON SOBER (NEA) JULY 5 FOR
DETAILED PRESENTATION OF UK POSITION ON INDIAN TEST.
GRAHAM NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR WAS CALLING ACTING SECRETARY
ON SPECIFIC PROBLEM OF NUCLEAR TRAINING REQUESTS FOR
INDIANS (REPORTED SEPTTEL).

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2. GRAHAM SAID BRITS INITIALLY HAD REACTED FAIRLY QUIETLY TO INDIAN TEST BUT WERE NOW TAKING MORE SERIOUS VIEW OF ITS IMPLICATIONS. WHILE THEY DID NOT DESIRE ROW WITH INDIA, THEY WERE CONCERNED THAT WHOLE NPT STRUCTURE MIGHT BE IN DANGER OF COLLAPSING UNLESS THERE WAS EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO INDIAN TEST. ACCORDING GRAHAM, BRITS SEE TWO POSSIBLE LINES OF APPROACH: (A) TO CHANGE THE NPT RULES TO ACCEPT INDIA AS MEMBER OF NUCLEAR CLUB IN EFFORT TO MAKE DELHI ACT RESPONSIBLY, (B) TO TRY TO OSTRACIZE INDIA BY INVOKING PANOPLY OF SANCTIONS SUCH AS WITHHOLDING AID IN NUCLEAR AREA AND OTHERWISE BRINGING DOWN DISPLEASURE OF NUCLEAR CLUB ON INDIA. UK WAS NOT CERTAIN WHICH COURSE TO FOLLOW. HOPED TO HAVE DIALOGUE ON THIS WITH US, CANADIANS AND OTHERS. ONE AREA THAT SEEMS TO REQUIRE SPECIAL ATTENTION IS ROLE OF PNE'S. SINCE WEAPON STATES HAD NOT SO FAR MADE AVAILABLE PNE SERVICES AS SPECIFIED IN NPT, INDIANS WERE GIVEN SEMI-PLAUSIBLE BASIS FOR

DEVELOPING THEIR PNE. QUESTION WAS WHETHER WE AND SOVIETS MIGHT NOT NOW WISH TO TRY TO EVOLVE SOMETHING PRACTICAL TO CLOSE OFF THIS EXCUSE FOR OTHER POTENTIAL NUCLEAR POWERS. BRITS ALSO THOUGHT QUESTION OF ASSURANCES FOR STATES WHO DO NOT GO NUCLEAR NEEDED TO BE THOROUGHLY REVIEWED. PAKISTAN WAS CURRENT CASE IN POINT.

3. SOBER SAID THAT WE OURSELVES CAREFULLY STUDYING IMPLICATIONS OF NUCLEAR TEST. WHILE REVIEW NOT YET COMPLETE, IT TOUCHED ON THE POINTS WHICH BRITISH HAD RAISED. SIMILARLY, WE HAVE BEEN FACED WITH NEED FOR SOME OPERATIONAL DECISIONS BEFORE COMPLETION OF REVIEW, INCLUDING INTERIM HANDLING OF TRAINING REQUESTS.

4. SOBER ALSO BRIEFED GRAHAM ON OUR ACTION TO MAKE FUTURE SHIPMENTS OF ENRICHED URANIUM AND OTHER EQUIPMENT FOR TARAPUR CONTINGENT ON RECEIPT OF EXPLICIT CONFIRMATION WE HAD REQUESTED FROM GOI THAT IT WOULD NOT USE US MATERIAL SUPPLIED FOR TARAPUR IN PRODUCING PNE'S. SISCO

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